

## REFERNET VETNEWS INTERNATIONAL

04/2026

11/03/2026

### Europe

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#### European Commission

Switzerland and EU signed agreement on Swiss participation in EU programmes and now Council gives green light for signing of package of agreements with Switzerland. The agreement also paves the way for association to a.o. Erasmus+.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/de/press/press-releases/2026/02/24/council-greenlights-signing-of-package-of-agreements-with-switzerland/>



#### Cedefop

Reverse gear: how AI is bringing vocational occupations back'

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/reverse-gear-how-ai-bringing-vocational-occupations-back>

Who gets hired in the digital economy? Hiring from the margins to bridge Europe's skill shortage

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/who-gets-hired-digital-economy-hiring-margins-bridge-europes-skill-shortage>

Recent publications:

Building inclusive futures for NEETs: VET solutions for Europe's young people not in employment, education or training.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications/5618>

This brochure highlights Cedefop's main activities and strategic priorities during 2025

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications/9208>

Shaping the future of lifelong learning: policy scenarios for 2040: Transparency and transferability of learning outcomes

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications/5619>

## European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET)

Statement on the appointment of Ylva Johansson as Chair of the European Commission Skills High-Level Board

<https://efvet.org/statement-on-the-appointment-of-ylva-johansson-as-chair-of-the-european-commission-skills-high-level-board/>

## Eurochambres

Eurochambres' input for the European VET Strategy

<https://www.eurochambres.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Eurochambres-input-for-the-European-VET-Strategy.pdf>

## International

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### VET research

Call for Papers from the Journal of Research on Education: “Vocational transitions across the lifespan”.

<https://vetnetsite.org/2026/03/09/vocational-transitions-across-the-lifespan-call-for-papers-journal-of-research-on-education/>



Case Report: Diversifying apprenticeships: learning from recruitment and retention practices for women in male-dominated industries

<https://www.emerald.com/heswbl/article-abstract/doi/10.1108/HESWBL-07-2025-0289/1345473/Diversifying-apprenticeships-learning-from?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

Conceptual Paper: Green skills for tomorrow's supply chains: an industry–education partnership framework for sustainable transformation

<https://www.emerald.com/heswbl/article-abstract/doi/10.1108/HESWBL-09-2025-0386/1344994/Green-skills-for-tomorrow-s-supply-chains-an?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

### Our world in data

Unemployment rate, 2025

[https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/unemployment-rate?utm\\_source=OWID+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=86c91f4246-owid-brief-2026-03-06&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_-0c7f305164-599304701](https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/unemployment-rate?utm_source=OWID+Newsletter&utm_campaign=86c91f4246-owid-brief-2026-03-06&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-0c7f305164-599304701)

## Countries

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### Australia

National Skills Plan 2025—26 Update available now: This update includes progress made in implementing the National Skills Agreement and delivering on the national priorities for the Vocational Education and Training system, as well as new focus areas for the national priorities for 2026.

<https://www.dewr.gov.au/national-skills-agreement/announcements/national-skills-plan-202526-update-available-now>

Research on Industry trends: Residential construction. Australia's construction sector is tackling workforce shortages and productivity challenges by reshaping industry culture, improving gender representation, and strengthening skills pipelines.

<https://www.voced.edu.au/industry-trends-residential-construction>

Jobs and Skills Australia's (JSA) Gen AI Capacity Study is a whole-of-labour-market study focused on the potential opportunities and challenges of Gen AI for Australia's workforce. It finds that Gen AI is more likely to augment human work than replace it. While AI may automate routine tasks, its greatest potential lies in enhancing productivity, reshaping how we work, and unlocking new opportunities economy wide. The Study provides options for labour market actors to navigate a digital and AI Transition over the medium term.

<https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/studies/generative-artificial-intelligence-capacity-study>

Discover how AI is influencing Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs from 2017 to 2021. The data reveals how various VET fields are exposed to AI technologies, offering insights into emerging opportunities and areas of change.

<https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/studies/generative-artificial-intelligence-capacity-study/vet-programs-data-on-ai-exposures>

The independent legislated review into the effectiveness of the operations of the *Jobs and Skills Australia Act 2022*. JSA's 'main functions' are a.o. providing advises to the Ministry on current and future labour market developments and on future skills and training needs and priorities (including apprenticeships).

<https://www.dewr.gov.au/skills-and-training/skills-research-and-reviews/review-jobs-and-skills-australia-act>

### Denmark

Denmark is in the middle of extensive construction, renovation and infrastructure projects driven by green transition, climate adaptation and urban development. Now, new figures

from the winter intake at the business academies show that more young people are choosing precisely the technical educations that will bring their ambitions to life.

<https://dkea.dk/nyheder/flere-vil-bygge-fremtidens-danmark-tekniske-uddannelser-markant-fremgang-ved-vinteroptag>

Winter intake increases significantly: New cyber security programme attracts more students to the business academies

<https://dkea.dk/nyheder/vinteroptag-stiger-markant-ny-cybersikkerhedsuddannelse-traekker-flere-studerende-til>

More women want to be car painters: Traditional male professions are being challenged by the opposite sex

<https://maler.dk/nyhed/fra-2-til-21-kvinderne-vil-vaere-autolakerer/>

Draft bill from the Ministry of Education includes changes aimed at improving the quality of vocational education and training: Vocational schools are obliged to visit students at their apprenticeship workplaces, and responsibility for improving cooperation between the various learning locations is clearly assigned to the schools. Apprentices who decide to do part of their training abroad should have better opportunities to continue their training upon their return.

<https://uvm.dk/aktuelt/nyheder/2026/februar/260226-nyt-lovforslag-er-en-del-af-markant-styrkelse-af-erhvervsuddannelserne/>

The well-being of students in vocational training programmes has remained stable for several years.

<https://uvm.dk/aktuelt/nyheder/2026/februar/190226-nyhed-om-resultater-af-trivselsmaalingerne-paa-de-gymnasiale-uddannelser-erhvervsuddannelserne-og-fgu/>



## Estonia

"No Way Back" from AI in Education, Warns Estonia's President Karis as Leaders Debate Responsible Use

<https://hm.ee/en/news/no-way-back-ai-education-warns-estonias-president-karis-leaders-debate-responsible-use>

Europe's Top PISA Performer Showcases AI Leap Programme as Global Summit Opens in Tallinn

Programme as Global Summit Opens in Tallinn

<https://hm.ee/en/news/europes-top-pisa-performer-showcases-ai-leap-programme-global-summit-opens-tallinn>

## France

Between stability and precariousness, a sectoral map of early careers is emerging.

<https://www.cereq.fr/ruptures-choisies-ruptures-subies-le-cdi-lepreuve-des-secteurs-en-debut-de-carriere>

## Norway

Recruitment challenges and labour shortages: An updated knowledge base on skills requirements

<https://hkdir.no/rapporter-undersokelser-og-statistikk/rekrutteringsutfordringer-og-mangel-pa-arbeidskraft-et-oppdatert-kunnskapsgrunnlag-om-kompetansebehov>

The AI Regulation in brief

<https://hkdir.no/rapporter-undersokelser-og-statistikk/les-rapporten/ki-forordningen-kort-fortalt-betydningen-av-nytt-eu-regelverk-om-kunstig-intelligens-for-hoyere-utdanning-og-forskning/innledning>

## The Netherlands

The report examines the possibilities of making a minimum internship allowance for educational internships legally binding. This applies to internships in secondary vocational education (MBO), higher vocational education (HBO) and university education (WO).

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2026/01/29/ambtelijke-verkenning-wettelijk-verplichten-stagevergoedingen>

MBO Council sounds the alarm about continued decline in MBO students

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/mbo-raad-luidt-noodklok-over-aanhoudende-afname-mbo-studenten>

The MBO Council congratulates the coalition parties on the rapid realization of the new coalition agreement but demands action because in recent years important choices have too often been postponed. This has led to uncertainty and stagnation, also for secondary vocational education.

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/mbo-raad-positief-over-plannen-nieuw-regeerakkoord-maar-belangrijke-vragen-over-uitwerking>

In the run-up to the lifelong learning debate on Wednesday, 4 March, the MBO Council referred to a public mandate for vocational education in a letter to the Standing Committee on Education, Culture and Science (OCW). With a public mandate for vocational education and the funding of LLO for adults, everyone is given the opportunity to develop into a productive and sustainable force in the labour market.

<https://mboraad1.sharepoint.com/sites/001850/Gedeelde%20documenten/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2F001850%2FGedeelde%20documenten%2F2025%2FBrief%20LLO%2Ddebat%204%20maart%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2F001850%2FGedeelde%20documenten%2F2025&p=true&ga=1>

The aim of the work session was to concretize the [national vision on AI and examination of Npuls published by Npuls](#) from an MBO perspective. The results and other relevant information, for example about the parties involved, have now been published.

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/ai-bij-toetsing-en-examinering>

At the end of January, the Court of Audit published the report 'Untapped potential'. This report shows that the potential for integrating (young) people in the Netherlands is not yet

being sufficiently exploited. Although the Integration Act 2021 is still relatively new and the report refers to the initial results, the MBO Council recognises the signals set out in it.

<https://www.mбораad.nl/nieuws/benut-potentieel-van-inburgeraars-beter-het-mbo>

## Save the Date

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20/03/2026: The [GreenVET Pathway](#) Final Conference, titled “*From Vision to Action: Whole-Institution Change for Sustainability in Vocational Education and Training*,” will take place online (11:00–13:00 CET)

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/243308ca-1da5-403c-a973-4b6db547cfb3@ea5cd368-e469-4798-a018-aaf4aab2865a>

24-27/03/2026: The University of South Africa (UNISA) will be hosting its second hybrid International Conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ICTVET2026) in Gauteng, South Africa. Theme: Innovative Pathways and Best Practices for the Promotion of TVET for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment.

[https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/News-&Media/Calendar-&-events/International-Conference-on-Technical-and-Vocational-Education-and-Training-\(ICTVET2026\)](https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/News-&Media/Calendar-&-events/International-Conference-on-Technical-and-Vocational-Education-and-Training-(ICTVET2026))

26/03/2026 EIGE and the European Commission will host a [webinar](#) launching the *EU-wide guidelines on gender-neutral job evaluation and classification* – a practical step-by-step toolkit to support fair and transparent pay systems across Europe. (11:00–13:00 EET).

<https://eige.europa.eu/newsroom/events/webinar-launching-eu-wide-guidelines-gender-neutral-job-evaluation-and-classification>

12-13/05/2026: Launching the Cedefop’s forthcoming new framework for policy and systems development for lifelong guidance in Thessaloniki

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/launching-framework-lifelong-guidance>

15/10/2026: Towards the European Apprenticeship Area. The EfVET event in Paris is dedicated to apprentice mobility across Europe.

<https://efvet.org/towards-the-european-apprenticeship-area/>



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